

REMARKS

It is submitted that these claims are patentably distinct from the prior art cited by the Examiner, and that these claims are in full compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112. The amendments and remarks herein are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §§ 101, 102, 103 or 112; but rather the amendments and remarks are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicants are entitled.

Claims 1-34, 41-52, and 54-55 have been canceled. Applicants reserve their right to file one or more continuation and/or divisional applications to continue the prosecution of any or all of the canceled claims.

Claims 35-40, and 53 are in the application.

Claims 50 and 55 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Smith (U.S. Patent No. 6,117,394). Claims 1, 3-10, and 12-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(as) as being unpatentable over Smith (U.S. Patent No. 6,117,394) in view of Preston et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,274,087).

As previously indicated, claims 1, 3-10, 12-19, 50 and 55 have been canceled. Such cancellation is not a representation concerning distinctions and/or similarities between the present invention and the applied references. Further, applicants reserve their right to file one or more continuation applications to continue the prosecution of any or all of such canceled claims.

The Examiner indicated that claims 35-40 and 53 are allowed.

This is in response to the Examiner's statement of reasons for allowance referred to in the present Office Action mailed January 20, 2004. To the extent the Examiner's statement of reasons for allowance states, implies or is construed to mean that the claims are allowable

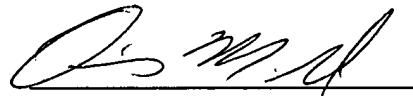
over the prior art of record because the Examiner believes the claims should be interpreted to include one or more features or limitations not recited therein, Applicants' attorney disagrees with such an interpretation. Moreover, it is Applicants' contention that there is no particular limitation in the allowed claims that is more critical than any other. The issuance of Examiner's statement of reasons for allowance should not be construed as a surrender by Applicants of any subject matter. It is the intent of Applicants, by their attorney, to construe the allowed claims so as to cover the invention disclosed in the instant application and all equivalents to which the claimed invention is entitled.

In view of the foregoing, entry of this amendment and these remarks and the allowance of this application with claims 35-40 and 53 are respectfully requested.

Please charge any fees incurred by reason of this response and not paid herewith to Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

Respectfully submitted,
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